

SB183 – States Rights Wolf Recovery Act (Sen. Joe Balyeat)Exhibit No. 9Date 3-17-09Bill No. SB183

1) What the bill does –

- A) Declares Montana authority for wildlife management and challenges federal authority to force wolves on Montana;
- B) Removes Montana from cooperation with the feds by voiding the cooperative management agreement between Montana and the feds and voiding the fed-driven Montana Wolf Management Plan;
- C) Declares that federal wolves are not in compliance with Montana wolf policy;
- D) Establishes benchmarks that the feds must meet to bring federal wolves into compliance with Montana wolf policy; and
- E) Establishes consequences for any period that federal wolves are not in compliance with Montana wolf policy.

- 2) My background since 2002. (Articles). Took severe public criticism, but predictions all proved right. Calf/cow ratio, aging elk population, 30% annual wolf increase, Yellowstone herd population cliff, spread throughout Montana, increasing attacks on livestock and pets once the wildlife buffer was wiped out; eventual attacks on humans.
- 3) Where we're at today – Obama administration once again pulled the football away, then put it back again. Delisting is supposedly in process, but animal rights groups have already promised publicly to sue. So we will end up in court regardless. Why not on our issues, in our venue?
- 4) We can't wait any longer – the sportsmen can't wait, those who truly love Montana's wildlife can't wait, and the livestock industry can't wait.
- 5) I sat back and tried to let FWP get it done for six years. I carried their legislation and kept my mouth shut. We're no further along now than we were six years ago. But we're now approaching 2000 wolves. The only reason we're not approaching 4000 is because the feds have used any excuse they can to kill as many wolves as they can.
- 6) Large predators are all killing machines, but wolves are unique. They're a killing machine and a breeding machine all rolled into one. Wolves eat about They kill way more than they eat.
- 7) Amendments to the bill – A) Trigger B) Auditor's amendment (cuts \$3.3 million from fiscal note) C) Amendment to switch to Dept. of Justice instead of FWP (cuts \$18.7 million from fiscal note).
- 8) Fiscal note --- bogus, if de-listing continues in process, the fiscal note is absolutely \$-0-, because the bill has a trigger that doesn't go into effect unless the current delisting process is repealed. But even if the bill does go into effect, the amount is peanuts compared to what we're losing in terms of wildlife and Montana's outdoor heritage. (Schallenberger letter) **1500 wolves x46 elk x\$4500 ( ½ bulls, ½ cows) = \$310,500,000. 600x46x4500=\$124,200,000/ per year!** By the way, the bill requires restitution from the feds. This doesn't even include the cost of lost livestock and pets.
- 9) Why we need to keep this bill alive. It's the only leverage we have. It can be killed or amended at any point in the process. The final trigger on passage of this bill belongs to the Governor... and he won't have to decide to pull it until into May sometime. This bill will be subjected to three more committee hearings and votes, plus two votes on the Senate floor and two votes on the house floor. If the governor or the House decides to further amend it, it will be subject to at least two, perhaps four or six more votes in the House and Senate. Thus, even if it passes the vote in this committee, it will have between 7 and 15 more votes, and we can pull the plug on it at any one of those votes.
- 10) Even if SB183 became law. Yes, SB183 will certainly lead us right into court. But the wolf issue is always ending up in court anyway. Why not at least get the home court advantage. Why not have the case go to court on our issues, and with a judge of our choosing; rather than let the wolf-crazies pick the issues and the judge... doing battle on their home court with a ref of their choosing?
- 11) Show video if time.